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Draft Minutes of the meeting of the Central
Parliamentary Board held in Jaipur on
November 19, 1966.

Present:

Professor N.G. Ranga, M.P. (in the chair)
Smt. Gayatri Devi, M.P.
Dr. M. Ruthnaswamy, M.P.
Mr. R.N. Singh Deo, M.L.A.
Mr. B.P. Singh, M.L.A.
Mr. Dahyabhai Patel, M.P.
Mr. M.R. Masani, M.P.
Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai (by special invitation)

The minutes of the last meeting held in Delhi on November 5 were confirmed.

The Board adopted a condolence resolution expressing sympathy with Mr. M.R. Masani and the family on the passing away of Sir R.P. Masani.

The Board then took note of certain developments in connection with the Rajkot Parliamentary constituency including a letter dated 15th November 1966 received by the President from Rajaji. It also received a report from Mr. Dahyabhai Patel and Mr. Masani about their visit to Rajkot on November 10.

(copy attached) / that
The Board took note of the insistent and widespread keenness of our Party members and influential friends outside the Party in Rajkot as evidenced by the resolution of the District Committee of the Party and the letter addressed to Rajaji dated November 10, 1966 by Mr. Babubhai Shah, Editor of "Jai Hind", Mr. Babubhai Vaidya, M.L.A., Yuvaraj Manoharsinh of Rajkot, M.L.A., and Mr. C. Shukla, Vice President of the Gujarat Jan Sangh, and the assurance given by all of them/they would attend to the work of getting Mr. Masani elected to the Lok Sabha, even though he would be absent and free to attend to his work as General Secretary of the Party for three weeks out of four during the months of December, January and February.

The Board, in modification of its decision of 5th November, decided to take note of the wishes of the constituency and to permit Mr. Masani to stand for election from Rajkot if he finds it possible to arrive at satisfactory arrangements that would enable him to fulfil his obligations to the Party as General Secretary.

The Board approved of the following recommendations received from the Gujarat State Parliamentary Board in regard to Assembly constituencies within Rajkot Parliamentary constituency:

Jasdan - Yuvraj Shivrajkumar
Wankaner - Yuvraj Digvijaysinhji
Jetpur - Mr. Ratilal Ukabhai Patel, M.L.A.

It authorised the General Secretary to approve, on behalf of the Central Parliamentary Board, of the nomination of prospective candidates for those Assembly constituencies within the Rajkot Parliamentary constituency for which prospective candidates have not yet been nominated, in consultation with the State Parliamentary Board of the Gujarat unit. The Board was confident that our friends in Rajkot appreciated the serious responsibility they have taken on themselves and would see to it that it was successfully performed.

The Board requested Mr. Dahyabhai Patel to help the Party's Election Campaign by undertaking to tour as many States throughout the country as possible in addition to the valuable work he is already doing in Bihar.

The General Secretary then reported to the Board of certain developments concerning the Andhra State Legislature Party. He read before the meeting two letters dated 15th November addressed to him by Mr. G. Latchanna, President of the Andhra unit, along with the enclosures which were a resolution adopted by the Andhra State Executive and a resolution adopted by the Andhra State Legislature Swatantra Party. These papers were received by him on the morning of November 16. The General Secretary reported that he had, immediately on receipt of this letter, sent a telegram to Mr. Latchanna in the following terms:

"Yours Fifteenth. Ranga has discussed proposal regarding resignations with me. It would be improper for our Members to resign without consulting Central Parliamentary Board which meets in Jaipur on 19th. Would therefore request you take no action till after Parliamentary Board consider the matter and give you their guidance."

The General Secretary had also talked to him on the telephone and appealed to him to respect the guidance in the telegram. On the morning of the 18th November, another telegram was received by him from Mr. Latchanna which reads as follows:

"After carefully considering your kind telephonic and telegraphic advice we earnestly urge that if we resign even a day after all other Opposition parties including National Democrats Samyukta Socialists and Independents resign there will not be any grace. Moreover our Party will get discredit that we followed others under pressure only to save our face and to overcome humiliation by which we greatly afraid that all goodwill we gained so far by our endeavour all these years will be lost which is very dangerous particularly before General Elections. We therefore earnestly request to kindly allow us as special case to resign on the same day when others resign subject to Board's ratification on 19th and thus save our State Party from this predicament."

The General Secretary also placed before the meeting a telegram received that morning in Jaipur from Rajaji, which reads as follows:

"I am against the resignation of our Party Members on the issue of the Vizag Steel Plant for several valid reasons. Now that the Fourth Plan has been put in abeyance the Andhra Proposal ought to be put in abeyance."

It was also reported to the Board that the morning's papers had carried the news that members of the Swatantra Party in the Andhra Assembly had resigned along with members of other parties.

After considerable discussion, the Board came to the conclusion that it was not possible to justify the step taken by the members of our Party in the Andhra Legislature and decided to record and convey to them its regret at their action in resigning from the State Legislature without waiting for the guidance of the Central Parliamentary Board in accordance with their own resolution despite the fact that a meeting of the Central Parliamentary Board was scheduled to take place within four days of their resolution.

The meeting then terminated.